

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus gave the following remarks today on the floor of the House of Representatives:

"A concerted legal and political effort, lead by activist judges, is attempting to affirm homosexual marriage as a fundamental civil right that the federal government has a constitutional obligation to secure and protect.

In doing so, they are undermining one of the most basic and sacred institutions that exist in an orderly, stable civil society- marriage.

What is happening is not a slight change in degree that merely extends benefits or rights to a larger class, but a substantive change in the essence of the institution. It does not expand marriage; it alters its core meaning, for to redefine marriage so that it is not intrinsically related to the relationship between fathers, mothers, and children would sever the institution from its nature and its purpose.

In response, the most important and responsible step Congress can take to preserve marriage is to send a Constitutional Amendment that protects the institution of marriage to the states for ratification."

After the vote, Congressman Bachus said, "The majority of Americans believe in the traditional definition of marriage. Today's legislative setback does not mean their convictions will be cast aside or ignored."

###